



CUSTOMS & QUARANTINE AGENCY, GUAM

Guam's First Line of Defense | Protecting Our Island, Our People, and Our Resources

Director's Office

*Acting Director of Customs – George L. Charfauros, Jr.
Chief of Customs – Vincent S.N. Perez*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 14, 2018

Customs Honors UOG's MPA Graduate Students at Hooding Ceremony

BARRIGADA, GUAM – Leadership at Customs and Quarantine Agency (CQA) attended the University of Guam's Masters of Public Administration's Graduating Class of Fanuchånan 2018 Hooding Ceremony to recognize the students' educational achievements and bestow certificates of appreciation for the meaningful work they conducted toward identifying gaps in local customs authorities and recommending solutions to close these gaps and improve border security.

For their final research project, the class chose to review and compare Guam's guiding customs legislation to those of other similar customs administrations to identify gaps in CQA authorities, and to recommend solutions to those gaps. Guiding legislation for the United States Customs and Border Protection, those of the U.S. Virgin Islands, CNMI, and Puerto Rico were reviewed.

The results identified gaps to include customs valuations on commodities, penalties, export control, automation, and utilization of a harmonized coding system. Solutions recommended legislation to identify fines, fees and penalties; require manifests in advance prior to entry; mandate automation; as well as organizational autonomy.

This was an independent study that supports the Agency's ability to fulfill and accomplish its mission.

CQA extends its gratitude to the University of Guam, the College of Business and Public Administration and the students who conducted the research study.

For more information, please contact our Public Information Officer Ms. Jessi Santos-Torres at (671) 475-6202 or email Jessi.Santos-Torres@cqa.guam.gov.



(L-R): Dave Flores (Ret. Colonel, CQA), Charles Esteves (OCD Administrator), **Stefanie Quito, Elway Ikeda, Kristal Taimanglo, Shannel Mendiola**, George Charfauros, Jr. (Acting Director of Customs), and Chief Vincent Perez (not pictured: **Leo Manibusan**).